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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/727,874	12/01/2000	David C. Turner	VTN-518	4049

7590 06/24/2004

Philip S. Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003

EXAMINER

SIMONE, CATHERINE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/727,874

Applicant(s)

TURNER ET AL.

Examiner

Catherine Simone

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--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 14 May 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Attachment.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: _____

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
10. ☐ Other: _____

*Advisory Action**Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments filed 5/14/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that "The periodic structures disclosed in Wu et al. are the identifying marks, or holes. The bottom of the hole is concave in shape (column 2, lines 39-42, Figures 2 and 4) and has a maximum depth range which varies based upon the width of the hole. At the most shallow, the identifying marks or holes have a depth from 0.5 microns (500 nm) to 35 microns (35,000 nm). Column 4, lines 37-40. Thus, Wu et al. discloses periodic structures (holes), which have amplitudes which are 100 to 10,000 times deeper than the amplitude recited in the present application. There is no overlap between the periodic structure amplitude recited in the present application and the maximum depth of the identifying marks in Wu et al." However, it is to be pointed out that the optimum range for the periodicity and the amplitude of the periodic structures would be readily determined through routine experimentation by one having ordinary skill in the art depending on the desired end results as shown by Wu et al. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to have provided the periodic structures on the surface of the lens in Wu et al. with a periodicity of less than about 3 μm and an amplitude of less than about 4 nm RMS, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art absence of showing unexpected results. MPEP 2144.05 (II). Furthermore, it is to be pointed out that claim 6 in the present application recites "an amplitude of less than about 4 nm RMS". Wu et al. discloses a surface roughness less than 10 microns RMS

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(10000 nm RMS), more preferably less than 3 microns RMS (3000 nm RMS) and most preferably less than 0.5 microns RMS (500 nm RMS), which overlaps with the claimed range of less than about 4 nm RMS. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness exists, since the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art." MPEP 2144.05 (I).

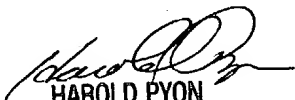
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine Simone whose telephone number is (571)272-1501. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Catherine Simone
Examiner
Art Unit 1772
June 22, 2004


HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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6/22/04